



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

Recycling Plastic Saves Energy

We all hear that recycling saves energy but just how much? A 2010 study confirms that recycling plastics, specifically PET and HDPE, results in significant savings in energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

The new study confirms that recycling plastics, specifically PET and HDPE, results in significant savings in energy and greenhouse gas emissions. The study used life cycle inventory (LCI) methodology to quantify the energy requirements, solid wastes, and atmospheric and waterborne emissions for the processes required to collect post-consumer PET and HDPE packaging, sort and separate the material, and reprocess it into clean recycled resin.

Using the LCI study results, together with U.S. EPA data on the tonnage of post-consumer PET and HDPE recovered in 2008, the energy required to collect, sort and domestically reprocess the tonnage of 2008 recovered plastic containers (including bottles) into cleaned recycled resin is 71 trillion Btu less than the amount of energy that would be required to produce the equivalent tonnage of virgin PET and HDPE resin.

The new study, "Final Report - Life Cycle Inventory of 100% Post-consumer HDPE and PET Recycled Resin from Post-consumer Containers and Packaging," conducted by Franklin Associates Ltd., was jointly sponsored by the Association of Post-consumer Plastic Recyclers, the American Chemistry Council, the National Association of PET Container Resources and the PET Resin Association.

Information from November 2010 issue of newsletter from the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recycling – The Voice of Plastics Recycling.

Did You Know?

- Televisions manufactured after May 10, 2011 must display EnergyGuide labels so consumers shopping for TVs will have information about how much energy they use.
- Amtrak is buying 70 new electric locomotives to provide improved energy performance and reliability for its Northeast intercity passenger rail services.
- According to EPA, in 2008, American businesses and households generated 32 million tons of food waste. Of that, 31 million tons (97%) was thrown away into landfills or incinerators!
- In 2011, the US Green Building Council will introduce *Volume certification for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance*. To learn more about LEED for Retail and the LEED Volume program, visit <http://www.usgbc.org/leed/retail> and <http://www.usgbc.org/LEEDvolume>
- According to Telework Exchange, Telework Day in 2009 saved approximately \$124,000 removed 82.77 tons of potential pollutants from the air, and saved 140,000 travel miles. 2011 Telework Week will be hosted February 14-18. Visit www.teleworkexchange.com to pledge.

Electronics Recycling Factoid

Reusing or recycling electronics helps the environment by reducing our carbon footprint and conserving resources. Electronic equipment contains valuable materials, such as precious metals and rare earth minerals, which can be recycled. Recycling these components conserves materials, prevents air and water pollution, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions that occur during extraction, manufacturing and processing. For example, for every 1 million cell phones recycled, 75 pounds of gold, 772 pounds of silver, 33 pounds of palladium, and more than 35,000 pounds of copper can be recovered.

America Recycles Day News, 2010: The Virginia Recycling Association challenged Virginians to make the pledge to recycle more in 2011, and collected the pledge cards for a drawing for prizes. The drawing was held in December, and the winners were: Ms Amanda Middlebrook, age 13, from Amelia County won a new bike (value \$250) and a \$250 Environmental Grant for her school. Ms. Connie Davis of Norfolk won a \$500 gift card to Greenhome.com. Congratulations to both winners, and to all those that participated by pledging and participating in the local and regional America and Virginia Recycles Day events. Over 2,100 pledges were received.

Recycling Fact Sheets

The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Recycling Task Force within the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials' (ASTSWMO) Solid Waste Subcommittee has developed a series of fact sheets on waste reduction and recycling in various commercial and institutional sectors.

The sectors addressed in this document are:

- Airports
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Dry Cleaners
- Hospitals and the Healthcare Industry
- K-12, and Colleges and Universities
- Mass Transit
- Multi-Family Housing
- Office or Financial Institutions
- Public Venues and Spaces
- Retail
- Small Business

For more information and access to the fact sheets, visit http://astswmo.org/files/publications/solidwaste/MSWR-TF-Commercial_Sector_Recycling_Fact_Sheets-12-22-2010.pdf

IKEA eliminates incandescent bulbs from U.S. stores

Home furnishings retailer IKEA will no longer sell or stock incandescent light bulbs in its U.S. stores. Federal legislation, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, has called for the phase out of incandescent light bulbs by 2014, and the company said they were making an effort to comply with the new law before the mandates took effect.

IKEA currently offers compact fluorescent bulbs and LED, halogen and solar powered desk lamps as alternatives to the traditional incandescent bulb. IKEA stores also collect spent CFL bulbs through take-back recycling programs at their U.S. stores.

January 4, 2011 issue of Waste & Recycling News, reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

Calendar of Events

April 5 - 7: Environment Virginia 2011, *Sustainable Solutions for Uncertain Times*, VMI. Visit www.vmi.edu.

April 13: Recycling Markets Development Council meeting, George Washington Regional Commission office, Fredericksburg, VA. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Plastic Bottle Recycling Reaches New High

Consumer plastic bottle recycling increased 46 million pounds in 2009 to reach a record high of almost 2.5 billion pounds for the year — a total plastic bottle recycling rate of 27.8 percent. The increase was the twentieth straight year the rate has increased, according to the jointly-released report by the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR).

The high density polyethylene (HDPE) bottle recycling rate rose to 29.2 percent in 2009, up slightly from 29.0 percent in 2008 with a rise in HDPE bottles collected of 44.9 million pounds to 981.6 million pounds.

The recycling rate for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles hit 28 percent last year, up one percentage point from 2008, with 1.4 billion pounds collected in 2009, 7 million pounds fewer than the year previous. This is due, in part, to continued light-weighting of PET bottles.

Polypropylene (PP) bottle recycling totaled 27.0 million pounds, a year-over-year increase of 27 percent over the 21.2 million pounds collected in 2008.

Information from December 2, 2010 issue of Resource Recycling Electronic Newsletter.

Office Depot debuts school e-waste recycling program

Office supply retailer Office Depot is launching a new electronic waste recycling program in schools and classrooms. The Recycling Rules program will place collection boxes for commonly used products inside schools, collecting products like ink and toner cartridges, rechargeable batteries and small electronics like mobile phones. When full, the pre-addressed and postage paid boxes can be mailed back to Office Depot; after processing, the company will send a gift card in an amount based on the value of the recyclables inside back to the classroom.

Yalmaz Siddiqui, director of environmental strategy for Office Depot stated: "At Office Depot, we continuously strive to find ways to lessen our impact on the environment. Our new Recycling Rules program does that for our schools while helping to educate children as well." For information, visit www.myschoolrecycles.com. For information on other Office Depot environmental initiatives, visit www.officedepot.com/environment.

From January 18, 2011 issue of *Waste & Recycling News*. Contact *Waste & Recycling News* reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

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